GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3003
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
VESSEL FOR A AND N ISLANDS
BISHNU PADA RAY

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Car Nicobar of A&N Islands on January 20, 2003 for the Island Development Authority Meeting, the then Hon'ble Union Minister of Shipping had promised to make available a vessel of 500 passengers capacity with a speed of 16-18 knots within six months for deployment to Southern group of Islands;

(b) if so, the present status of the commitment made by the Hon'ble Minister; and

(c) the time by when the vessel is likely to start operating?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING(SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In the Ship Acquisition Committee meeting held on 3.6.2002 it was decided to explore the possibility of chartering a High Speed Craft of 300-400 passenger capacity with 700 NM for Southern Group of Islands. Accordingly global tenders were invited by M/s NSDRC and only one tender was received for chartering of 300-400 passenger vessel from M/s Eastern Trading Agency, Dubai. They have confirmed the availability of MV Hermis and requested A&N Administration to expedite the decision of the Administration. The above vessel is having a carrying capacity of 1169 passengers in which 385 sleeping accommodation and 784 sitting accommodation. The above vessel meets all parameters for deployment in Southern Group of islands and can also be operated on the Mainland-Island Sector also. The offer of chartering of the above vessel seemed to be financially viable and as such it was decided that a representative each of DG Shipping, a representative of Ministry of Shipping and Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Shipping), A&N Administration may visit Greece to assess the suitability of the vessel for operation in Andaman & Nicobar water. The Ministry of Shipping has communicated approval of the competent Authority for undertaking proposed visit of the officers to Greece not exceeding 3 days. The Director, NSDRC has been requested by the A&N Administration to intimate the dates on which the above vessel will be available at Greece for inspection by the above team so that the A&N Administration may approach the GOI for obtaining political clearance and cadre clearance for inspection of officer intending to visit to Greece vide A&N Administration's letter dated 30.7.2003. The above team is however likely to visit Greece after 22.8.2003.

(c): The date by which the said vessel will be deployed in the Southern group of islands will be known only after visit of the above team to Greece and submission of their report.